COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2000

FILE NO.: 000-18019-0524-052

C: ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON ON A PEACE OFFICER (KNIFE), 245(c) P.C., ATTEMPT MURDER (KNIFE), 664/187 P.C., DEPUTY INVOLVED SHOOTING (SUSPECT DECEASED)

ACTION: ACTIVE / INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED / EVIDENCE HELD / WITNESSES INTERVIEWED / CORONER'S CASE# 2000-08750

V#1: [redacted] MH/[redacted]

V#2: PAYNE, ROBERT (DEPUTY SHERIFF) EMP#[redacted]

V#3: THRALL, JENNIFER (DEPUTY SHERIFF) EMP#[redacted]

D: DECEMBER 14, 2000 / 0247HRS

L: [redacted] AND [redacted] KAUFMAN AVENUE, TEMPLE CITY

S: RETZEPIS, VAIOS MW/2-17-78 (DECEASED)

Preliminary Information from Deputy Pedraza and Deputy Palmieri

Information on the assault of Victim [redacted] (Deputy Pedraza)

On December 14, 2000, at 3:15 am, Investigators Michael Bumcrot and David Carver were dispatched to [redacted] Kaufman Avenue to investigate the circumstances surrounding the deputy involved shooting death of Suspect Vaios Retzepis. Investigators Gib Anderson and Frank Salerno were also dispatched to assist in the investigation.

Investigators arrived at the command post located just north of [redacted] Kaufman Avenue and contacted Deputy Pedraza and Deputy Palmieri assigned to Temple Sheriff Station.

Deputy Pedraza told Investigators that on December 14, 2000, at 1:10 am, Victim [redacted] called Temple Sheriff Station and said he had been stabbed by a suspect named Vaios Retzepis.

Deputy Pedraza said several Temple patrol units were dispatched to Victim [redacted] residence including Deputy Payne and Deputy Thrall assigned to Unit 52F.

When units arrived at [redacted], they contacted Victim [redacted]. Victim [redacted] stated he had been stabbed by a friend named Vaios Retzepis. He said after he was stabbed, Suspect Retzepis left the location. Responding deputies checked the area for the suspect, but were unable to locate him.

Paramedics responded to the residence and stated that Victim [redacted] injuries were very severe and were life threatening. Deputy Pedraza said paramedics quickly transported Victim [redacted] to Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center for further medical treatment.

After Victim [redacted] was transported to the hospital, responding deputies continued their investigation and held the area as a crime scene. Deputy Pedraza said the deputies held the residence as a crime scene because paramedics believed that Victim [redacted] might die as a result of the stab wound.

For a complete account of Deputy Pedraza's observations and actions, refer to the first report documenting the assault on Victim [redacted]. The first report will be obtained and remain a permanent part of this file.

Information regarding the Deputy Involved Shooting (Deputy Palmieri)

Deputy Palmieri said on December 14, 2000, at approximately 2:45 am, Sergeant [redacted] walked out of the crime scene at [redacted] to continue her duties as a Patrol Sergeant. As she walked toward the street, Sergeant [redacted] saw a vehicle turn southbound on Kaufman Avenue. He said it appeared to Sergeant [redacted] that the vehicle then saw the radio cars parked on the street. He said the vehicle braked suddenly and then made a u-turn and drove northbound on Kaufman Avenue and out of view. He said Sergeant [redacted], Deputies Payne and Thrall, along with another unit ran to their cars to check on this suspicious vehicle.



Deputy Palmieri said Deputies Payne and Thrall looked for the vehicle for a few minutes and then decided to return to [redacted] to continue to hold the crime scene. Deputy Palmieri said as Deputies Payne and Thrall drove back to the residence, they saw a white Chevrolet pick-up truck turn southbound onto Kaufman Avenue from Blackley Street.

Deputy Palmieri said Deputy Payne followed the truck onto Kaufman Avenue. Deputy Palmieri said the truck stopped in front of [redacted] Kaufman Avenue and Deputy Payne parked his radio car behind the truck. Deputy Palmieri said after the truck stopped, Suspect Retzepis exited the driver's door holding a large hunting type knife in his right hand.

After exiting the truck, Suspect Retzepis began to walk toward Deputy Payne holding the knife in a threatening manner in his right hand. Deputy Palmieri said Deputies Payne and Thrall made numerous commands for Suspect Retzepis to drop the knife, but Suspect Retzepis continued to advance toward Deputy Payne.

Fearing for his life, Deputy Payne fired two to three rounds at Suspect Retzepis from his Beretta 92F handgun. Deputy Palmieri said fearing Suspect Retzepis was going to attack her partner with the knife, Deputy Thrall fired three rounds at Suspect Retzepis from her Beretta 92F handgun as well.

Deputy Palmieri said after the shots were fired, Suspect Retzepis fell to the ground. He said at this point, Deputy Payne advised the dispatcher that he and his partner had been involved in a shooting, the suspect was down and they needed paramedics.

Deputy Palmieri said Sergeant [redacted] along with other Temple units responded to the assistance request. He said when Sergeant [redacted] arrived, Suspect Retzepis was still conscious and holding the knife. He said Sergeant [redacted] deployed the Stunbag Shotgun in order to shoot the knife out of the suspect's hand so that he could be handcuffed safely. He said Sergeant [redacted] fired three Stunbag rounds, but was unable to hit the knife. Sergeant [redacted] then gave the Stunbag Shotgun to Deputy [redacted], who fired one Stunbag round and hit the knife a safe distance away from Suspect Retzepis. Suspect Retzepis was then handcuffed without further incident and paramedics arrived to provide medical treatment.

Deputy Palmieri said Suspect Retzepis was transported to Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center, where he underwent surgery. Deputy Palmieri said that Doctor Ascencio pronounced Suspect Retzepis dead on December 14, 2000, at 3:58 pm.

For a complete account of Deputy Palmieri's observations and actions, refer to his supplemental report, which will be obtained and remain a permanent part of this file.



Crime Scene Investigation

After speaking with Deputies Pedraza and Palmieri, Investigators Bumcrot and Carver briefly examined the crime scene at [redacted] and [redacted] Kaufman Avenue with Investigators Anderson and Salerno.

Investigators Bumcrot and Carver left Kaufman Avenue and drove to Temple Sheriff Station to conduct interviews. Investigators Anderson and Salerno remained on Kaufman Avenue to conduct a thorough crime scene investigation and to interview any civilian witnesses.

For a complete account of the crime scene investigation, refer to the supplemental report prepared by Investigators Anderson and Salerno. This report will be obtained and remain a permanent part of this file.

Interviews of Sworn Personnel not involved in the actual Shooting

The following five interviews were conducted in the conference room at Temple Sheriff Station on the morning of December 14, 2000. All of the interviews were tape recorded and for the purpose of this report, all of the interviews are summarized. For a complete and detailed account of the interview, refer to the taped interviews, which will remain a permanent part of this file.

Sergeant [redacted] (Pages 4, 5, 6)

Deputy [redacted] (Pages 6, 7)

Deputy Gregory Mahood (Page 7, 8)

Deputy Joseph Quire (Page 8)

Deputy Warren Ondatje (Page 8, 9)



Interview of Sergeant [redacted] (Emp# [redacted])

On December 14, 2000, at 5:45 am, Investigators Bumcrot and Carver interviewed Sergeant [redacted] at Temple Sheriff Station. Also present during the interview was Sergeant Borngreebe from Internal Affairs.

Sergeant [redacted] said that she began her work day on December 13, 2000, at [redacted] working the PM shift at Temple Station. She said she then was assigned as Early Morning Unit 51S and that shift began at [redacted]

Sergeant [redacted] said on December 14, 2000, she responded to an assault with a deadly weapon call at [redacted] She said the call stated that someone had called 911 and stated that they had been stabbed with a knife.

Sergeant [redacted] said she arrived at the residence and saw that the call was being handled and that the paramedics were treating the victim. Sergeant [redacted] said the victim had a stab wound to the abdominal area and the paramedics said the wound was deep and serious.

Sergeant [redacted] said when she arrived the suspect was not at the location and it was unknown if the suspect left on foot or in a car. She said during the investigation, Suspect Vaios Retzepis was identified by name as the stabbing suspect.

Sergeant [redacted] said after the victim was transported to the hospital, she stayed at the location to assist in the investigation. She said she spoke to the victim's [redacted] looked in the backyard, front yard and house for the knife and provided basic supervision.

Sergeant [redacted] said after her duties were done at the location she walked across Kaufman Avenue to her radio car. As she started her radio car and turned on the parking lights, Sergeant [redacted] saw a vehicle turn onto Kaufman Avenue.

Sergeant [redacted] said the vehicle caught her attention because the vehicle was being driven with only the parking lights on. She said the driver of the vehicle appeared to notice the radio cars parked in front [redacted] because the driver hit the breaks hard enough to raise the back end of the vehicle. Sergeant [redacted] said the driver of the car then made a u-turn and drove westbound on Blackley Street and out of view.

Sergeant [redacted] said she contacted other Temple units on the radio and advised them of this suspicious vehicle. Sergeant [redacted] said she decided not to request a Sheriff's Air Unit, because she did not believe the vehicle was related to the earlier assault. Sergeant [redacted] said she checked the area for the vehicle for a few minutes and then decided to go by Temple Station to drop off some paperwork.

Sergeant [redacted] said prior to going to the station she met with Deputy Ondatje at an intersection. As she was talking with Deputy Ondatje, Sergeant [redacted] heard Deputy Payne advise that he and his partner had been involved in a shooting at [redacted] (Original crime scene location).



Sergeant [redacted] said she drove northbound on Kaufman Avenue toward [redacted] just as Deputy Payne was advising units not to come northbound on Kaufman Avenue. Sergeant [redacted] said she made a u-turn and went around the block and drove southbound on Kaufman to Deputy Payne's location.

When Sergeant [redacted] arrived, she saw Deputy Payne and Thrall's vehicle parked directly behind a white pick-up truck that looked like the same vehicle she had seen minutes earlier.

Sergeant [redacted] saw one suspect laying in the street approximately five feet in front of Deputy Payne's radio car. She said the suspect was laying in a semi-fetal position and Deputy Payne told her that the suspect was still holding a knife.

Sergeant [redacted] said she went over to a tree on the eastside of the street and saw the knife by the suspect's hand. She said at this point she was unsure of whether the suspect was still holding the knife or if the knife was just by his hand. She said the suspect was breathing heavily and she was unsure if he was breathing heavily because of his wounds or because he was about to become aggressive.

Sergeant [redacted] said her first concern at this point was to get the knife away from the suspect. Sergeant [redacted] said she thought of her options and decided to use a Stunbag Shotgun to knock the knife away from the suspect.

Sergeant [redacted] said she retrieved a Stunbag Shotgun from the trunk of Deputy Payne's radio car. Sergeant [redacted] said she fired three Stunbag rounds in an attempt to hit the knife away from the suspect. Sergeant [redacted] said she missed the knife all three times. She said she then gave the Stunbag Shotgun to Deputy [redacted]. She said Deputy [redacted] fired one Stunbag round and hit the knife causing the knife to skitter across the pavement and away from the suspect.

Once the knife had been moved, Sergeant [redacted] said the suspect was handcuffed without further incident by Deputy Quire and two other deputies.

Sergeant [redacted] said she was not a witness to the actual shooting. She said during her involvement with the suspect he never made any statements and he appeared non-responsive to any of the commands directed toward him.

Interview of Deputy [redacted] (Emp# [redacted])

On December 14, 2000, at 6:05 am, Investigators Bumcrot and Carver interviewed Deputy [redacted] at Temple Sheriff Station. Also present during the interview was Sergeant Borngreebe from Internal Affairs.



On December 14, 2000, Deputy [redacted] said he was working the Early Morning shift in Temple Unit 55T1. Deputy [redacted] said he started his shift on December 13, 2000, at [redacted]

Deputy [redacted] said on December 14, 2000, he responded to the deputy involved shooting that occurred at [redacted] Kaufman Avenue. Deputy [redacted] said he responded to the location off of Blackley Street and when he arrived numerous units were already at the location.

Deputy [redacted] said when he arrived he saw the suspect lying on the ground in a fetal position with the knife still in his hands. He said as he arrived, Sergeant [redacted] had already fired one round from the Stunbag Shotgun at the knife. He said she then fired two more shots at the knife, but missed. He said Sergeant [redacted] then asked him if he could hit the knife and he told her he would try. Sergeant [redacted] then gave Deputy [redacted] the Stunbag Shotgun that had one round loaded in the chamber.

Deputy [redacted] said he fired one Stunbag round in an attempt to hit the knife. He said the round he fired hit the knife and caused the knife to skid away from the suspect. Deputy [redacted] said he was approximately 25 to 30 feet away from the suspect when he fired the Stunbag round. After he fired the round, Deputy [redacted] said the suspect was handcuffed.

Deputy [redacted] said he did not witness the shooting and several deputies were at the location prior to his arrival.

Interview of Deputy Gregory Mahood (Emp# [redacted])

On December 14, 2000, at 6:16 am, Investigators Bumcrot and Carver interviewed Deputy Gregory Mahood at Temple Sheriff Station. Also present during the interview was Sergeant Borngreebe from Internal Affairs.

On December 14, 2000, Deputy Mahood said he was working the Early Morning shift in Temple Unit 52T1. Deputy Mahood said he started his shift on December 13, 2000, at [redacted]

On December 14, 2000, Deputy Mahood said he responded to an assault with a deadly weapon call at [redacted] in Temple City. Deputy Mahood said later in the morning he went back to [redacted] to conduct follow-up investigation.

While at [redacted], Deputy Mahood said a vehicle drove onto Kaufman Avenue from Blackley Street. He said the vehicle made a u-turn and sped away. He said he got into his radio car and drove around the area looking for the vehicle.

Deputy Mahood said he was unable to locate the vehicle so he started to drive back to [redacted]. As he drove back, Deputy Mahood heard Deputy Payne request assistance. He said he drove southbound on Kaufman Avenue and arrived within one minute of the assistance request.

Deputy Mahood said he parked his car directly behind Deputy Payne's vehicle and took up a position alongside Deputy Payne. When he arrived, Deputy Mahood saw Deputy Payne standing behind the open driver's side door of his car. He said Deputy Thrall was across from Deputy Payne standing behind the open passenger's door of the car. He said both Deputy Payne and Thrall were using their doors as cover.

Deputy Mahood said he removed his handgun and positioned himself alongside of Deputy Payne. He said Deputy [redacted] used the Stunbag Shotgun to hit the knife away from the suspect. After the knife was removed, Deputy Mahood approached the suspect and grabbed both of his arms. He said Deputy Quire then handcuffed the suspect without further incident.

Interview of Deputy Joseph Quire (Emp# [redacted])

On December 14, 2000, at 6:44 am, Investigators Bumcrot and Carver interviewed Deputy Joseph Quire at Temple Sheriff Station. Also present during the interview was Sergeant Borngreebe from Internal Affairs.

On December 14, 2000, Deputy Quire said he was working the Early Morning shift in Temple Unit 55. Deputy Quire said he started his shift on December 13, 2000, at [redacted]

Deputy Quire said he responded to Deputy Payne's assistance request at [redacted]. When he arrived, Deputy Quire saw the suspect lying in the street with his head facing north and his feet facing south. He said the suspect's body was facing east and the suspect was in a fetal position. Deputy Quire said he saw a 12 inch knife positioned approximately 2 feet below the suspect feet.

Deputy Quire said he approached the suspect with two other deputies and handcuffed him without incident. Deputy Quire then conducted a quick pat down search of the suspect's body and clothing for weapons. After the search, Deputy Quire said paramedics were summoned to the location and began to treat the suspect.

Deputy Quire said he did not witness the initial shooting and arrived after the Stunbag rounds had already been fired knocking the knife below the suspect's feet.



Deputy Quire said it appeared that the suspect was no longer breathing when he handcuffed the suspect. He said when he was conducting the pat down search, the suspect's eyes were fixed.

Interview of Deputy Warren Ondatje (Emp# [redacted])

On December 14, 2000, at 6:52 am, Investigators Bumcrot and Carver interviewed Deputy Warren Ondatje at Temple Sheriff Station. Also present during the interview was Sergeant Borngreebe from Internal Affairs.

On December 14, 2000, Deputy Ondatje said he was working the Early Morning shift in Temple Unit 54. Deputy Ondatje said he started his shift on December 13, 2000, at [redacted]

Deputy Ondatje said he responded to [redacted] regarding the original assault with a deadly weapon call. He said when he arrived assisting units were already at the location interviewing the stabbing victim.

Deputy Ondatje said later the same morning he responded northbound on Kaufman Avenue regarding Deputy Payne's request for assistance. Deputy Ondatje said he blocked the street south of the shooting location and got out of his car and walked northbound to assist.

Deputy Ondatje said he held the suspect's legs down while the suspect was being handcuffed by Deputy Mahood and Deputy Quire. Deputy Ondatje said he was not present when the shooting took place.

Reports written by Temple Station Sworn Personnel

The following Temple Sheriff Station Deputy personnel have written supplemental reports documenting their observations and actions as part of the initial assault with a deadly weapon call or the Deputy Involved Shooting.

Deputy Pedraza (Emp# [redacted]) wrote the initial report documenting the attempt murder of Victim [redacted] by Suspect Vaios Retzepis.

Deputy Sandor (Emp# [redacted]) wrote a supplemental report documenting an interview he conducted with Victim [redacted] while en route to LAC-USC Medical Center.



Deputy Mahood (Emp#[redacted]) wrote a supplemental report documenting an interview he conducted with Victim [redacted]. The report also documents his observations and actions at the scene of the deputy involved shooting.

Deputy Palmieri (Emp#[redacted]) wrote the first supplemental report documenting the details of the deputy involved shooting. This reports contains interviews of Deputy Payne and Deputy Thrall. Attached to this report is the CHP-180 that was written to store Suspect Vaios Retzepis's 1999 Chevrolet Truck, Rhode Island Lic# [redacted].

Deputy Jordan (Emp#[redacted]) went with Suspect Retzepis to LAC-USC Medical Center. The supplemental report documents that Doctor Asencio treated Suspect Retzepis and also pronounced him dead at 3:58 am.

Deputy Quire (Emp#[redacted]) wrote a supplemental report that documents his observations and actions at the scene of the deputy involved shooting.

Deputy [redacted] (Emp#[redacted]) wrote a supplemental report documenting several witnesses that he interviewed in regards to the deputy involved shooting.

Deputy Pedraza (Emp#[redacted]) wrote a supplemental report documenting the interviews of several witnesses she contacted regarding the deputy involved shooting.

Deputy Tharp (Emp#[redacted]) wrote a supplemental report documenting his efforts in contacting residents on Kaufman Avenue to ascertain if any property damage had been done as a result of the shooting.

Deputy Sivixay (Emp#[redacted]) wrote a supplemental report documenting several interviews conducted of neighbors around the shooting location.

Deputy Slate (Emp#[redacted]) wrote a supplemental report documenting the fact that he transported Deputy Thrall to Temple Station after the shooting occurred.

The above reports will remain a permanent part of this file.

This case will remain active with further reports to follow.

SUBMITTED BY: D. CARVER #[redacted] AND M. BUMCROT #[redacted]
APPROVED BY: LT. MARTIN #[redacted]
HOMICIDE BUREAU / DETECTIVE DIVISION



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2000

FILE NO.: 000-18019-0524-052

C: ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON ON A PEACE OFFICER (KNIFE), 245(c) P.C., ATTEMPT MURDER (KNIFE), 664/187 P.C., DEPUTY INVOLVED SHOOTING (SUSPECT DECEASED)

ACTION: ACTIVE / INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED / EVIDENCE HELD / VICTIMS INTERVIEWED / CORONER'S CASE# 2000-08750

V#1: [redacted] MH/[redacted]

V#2: PAYNE, ROBERT (DEPUTY SHERIFF)
EMP#[redacted]

V#3: THRALL, JENNIFER (DEPUTY SHERIFF)
EMP#[redacted]

D: DECEMBER 14, 2000 / 0247HRS

L: [redacted] AND [redacted] Kauffman AVENUE,
TEMPLE CITY

S: RETZEPIS, VAIOS MW/2-17-78 (DECEASED)

Evidence Item #30: One Beretta 92F handgun issued to Deputy Robert Payne, Serial #BER[redacted]Z. The Beretta contained one magazine loaded with fourteen department approved 9mm rounds (Lab Receipt# J094217).

Evidence Item #31: One Beretta 92F handgun issued to Deputy Jennifer Thrall, Serial #BER[redacted]Z. The Beretta contained one magazine loaded with thirteen department approved 9mm rounds (Lab Receipt# J094217).

Information regarding the Deputy Involved Shooting

On December 13, 2000, Deputy Payne and Deputy Thrall were assigned to work Temple Unit 52F from [redacted] On December 14, 2000, at 2:47 am, Deputy Robert Payne and Deputy Jennifer Thrall were involved in an on duty shooting at [redacted] Kauffman Avenue in Temple City.



During the shooting, Suspect Vaios Retzepis was shot and later died as a result of his injuries at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center. Neither Deputy was injured during the incident.

After the shooting occurred, Deputy Payne and Deputy Thrall were transported to Temple Sheriff Station in different radio cars and placed in two different rooms to await the arrival of Homicide Investigators.

Prior to the arrival of Investigators, Deputy Payne and Deputy Thrall requested legal counsel from the Association of Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff's. On December 14, 2000, Helen L. Schwab from the Law Firm of "Green and Shinee" responded to Temple Sheriff Station and sat with Deputies Payne and Thrall during the interview process.

The following two interviews were conducted by Homicide Investigators Bumcrot and Carver. The interviews were conducted in the conference room at Temple Sheriff Station on the morning of December 14, 2000. The interviews of Deputy Payne and Thrall were tape recorded and have been summarized in this report. For a complete and detailed account of the interviews, refer to the taped interviews, which will remain a permanent part of this file.

Background Information on Deputy Jennifer Thrall (Emp# [redacted])

Deputy Thrall is currently assigned to Temple Sheriff Station as a newly assigned deputy on the PM Shift. Deputy Thrall was hired by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in July of 1995. After graduating from the Academy in [redacted], she was assigned to [redacted]. Deputy Thrall remained at the [redacted] until she was assigned to Temple Sheriff Station in November of 2000. Deputy Thrall is currently working with her Field Training Officer, Deputy Payne.

Interview of Deputy Jennifer Thrall (Emp# [redacted])

On December 14, 2000, at 7:06 am, Investigators Bumcrot and Carver interviewed Deputy Thrall at Temple Sheriff Station.

Deputy Thrall said on December 13, 2000, she worked the PM shift with her partner, Deputy Payne. During the course of the evening, Deputy Payne drove and Deputy Thrall was the passenger (bookman).



On December 14, 2000, Deputy Thrall stated she and her partner responded to an assault with a deadly weapon call at [redacted], Temple City. When they arrived at the call, Deputy Thrall went into the residence and found Victim [redacted] in the bedroom being cradled by his [redacted]. She said Victim [redacted] had a deep stab wound to his abdomen. Deputy Thrall said the paramedics indicated the stab wound was very serious and they were not sure if Victim [redacted] would survive.

Deputy Thrall said the suspect was not at the location when she arrived. She said a crime broadcast was initiated indicating the suspect's first name was "Vaios" and he was last seen wearing blue jeans and a coat.

While conducting follow-up investigation at the residence, Deputy Thrall saw deputies running towards their radio cars parked on Kauffman Avenue. She said at first she did not know what was going on, but then learned that Sergeant [redacted] had seen a suspicious car turn southbound on Kauffman Avenue. She said when the car turned onto Kauffman Avenue the driver slammed on his brakes and drove northbound on Kauffman Avenue to Blackley Street.

Deputy Thrall said she got into her radio car with her partner and they began to check the area for the suspicious vehicle. Shortly after leaving the crime scene, Deputy Payne drove back to Kauffman Avenue because they realized that no personnel stayed at the residence to secure the crime scene.

Deputy Thrall said as they drove back to Kauffman Avenue, she saw a white pick-up truck speeding eastbound on Blackley Street. She said the truck drove southbound on Kauffman Avenue towards the original crime scene location. Deputy Thrall said the vehicle appeared very suspicious.

Deputy Thrall said her partner followed the truck southbound on Kauffman Avenue. She said Deputy Payne stopped behind the truck as the truck parked in front of [redacted] Kauffman Avenue (One house north of the original crime scene location). Deputy Thrall said her and her partner handled the situation "like a regular traffic stop." She said the radio car's lights were on and she directed her spotlight at the truck's rearview mirror.

Deputy Thrall said the suspect exited the driver's side of the pick-up truck holding a "very large knife." She said the suspect was holding the knife in his right hand.

> **Note:** As Deputy Thrall was talking about this part of the incident, Investigators saw her raise her right hand above the right side of her head showing the exact position she saw the suspect holding the knife. It appeared to the Investigators that Deputy Thrall was visualizing exactly what she saw when the suspect exited the vehicle.



Deputy Thrall said the suspect began to walk towards her radio car with the knife still in his right hand. Deputy Thrall said she shouted the following commands numerous times at the suspect: "Drop the knife," "Stop" and "Do not come any closer." As she was yelling the commands, Deputy Thrall also heard Deputy Payne making similar commands.

As she looked at the knife, Deputy Thrall said she saw what appeared to be blood on the knife blade, possibly from the earlier assault. Deputy Thrall said the knife was serrated on both edges and she again indicated that the knife was a very big knife.

Deputy Thrall said the suspect continued to walk towards the radio car and was not "listening" to any of her or her partner's commands. She said her and her partner continued to make commands for the suspect to "Stop," "Drop the knife" and "Do not come any closer."

Deputy Thrall said the suspect was "focused on her partner" as he approached the radio car. She then stated "he's (Suspect Retzepis) going straight toward my partner with this huge knife." At this point, Deputy Thrall stated she was in fear that the suspect was going to attack Deputy Payne with the knife.

Deputy Thrall said she was focused on the suspect, but she could hear Deputy Payne take several steps backwards and away from the approaching suspect. Deputy Thrall stated the last thing she heard before the shooting was her partner stating, "Don't come any closer or I am going to shoot you." Deputy Thrall said at this point the suspect was very close to her vehicle.

Deputy Thrall said based on the fact the suspect was ignoring their commands to stop, was holding a large knife and was probably the suspect that committed the earlier stabbing, she fired two to three rounds from her duty weapon at the suspect. At the same time she fired, Deputy Thrall heard her partner fire one or two rounds as well.

Deputy Thrall said after the shots had been fired, the suspect fell to the ground. She said although the suspect was on the ground, she could see he was still moving and the knife was still in his immediate reach.

Deputy Thrall said she made several commands for the suspect to move the knife away from his body. She said the suspect continued to ignore the commands. Deputy Thrall said Deputy Payne advised assisting units they had been involved in a shooting and paramedics were needed for the suspect.

Deputy Thrall said someone retrieved the Stunbag shotgun from the trunk of their car. Deputy Thrall remembers seeing one Stunbag round hit the suspect in the back. She said after the first Stunbag round was fired more commands were directed towards the suspect, but he continued to ignore the commands. Deputy Thrall said two more Stunbag rounds were fired in an attempt to knock the knife away from the suspect. Deputy Thrall said the second round hit the suspect in the back, but the third Stunbag round struck the knife and pushed it away from the suspect.

Deputy Thrall said after the knife was moved away from the suspect, paramedics were summoned to provide medical attention. After the suspect was receiving treatment, Deputy Thrall said she was transported to Temple Station.

At the request of Investigators, Deputy Thrall removed her Beretta 92F handgun. After providing Investigators with the serial number to the handgun, Deputy Thrall told Investigators she usually carried the firearm with fifteen rounds in the magazine and one round in the chamber.

Deputy Thrall then removed twelve 9mm rounds from the magazine and one 9mm round from the chamber of the gun and indicated it was her belief that she fired three rounds. Investigators took possession of Deputy Thrall's handgun, magazine and the twelve 9mm rounds **(Evidence Item #30).**

At the end of the interview, Deputy Thrall again indicated that she fired the three rounds at the suspect because she was in fear for Deputy Payne's life. She said the suspect held the knife in a threatening manner, was not complying with commands and it was her belief that the suspect was going after her partner. She also stated it was her belief at the time of this incident that the suspect was also responsible for the assault on Victim [redacted].

Background Information on Deputy Robert Payne (Emp# [redacted]

Deputy Payne is currently assigned to Temple Sheriff Station as a Field Training Officer on the PM Shift. Deputy Payne was hired by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in April of 1991. After graduating from the Academy in [redacted], Deputy Payne was assigned to [redacted] Deputy Payne remained at [redacted] until he was assigned to Temple Sheriff Station in March of 1999. Deputy Payne is currently Deputy Thrall's Training Officer.

Interview of Deputy Robert Payne (Emp# [redacted])

On December 14, 2000, at 7:30 am, Investigators Bumcrot and Carver interviewed Deputy Payne at Temple Sheriff Station.

Deputy Payne said on December 14, 2000, he and Deputy Thrall responded to an assault with a deadly weapon call on Kauffman Avenue. Upon arriving at the location, Deputy Payne said they contacted the victim and saw the victim had a serious stab wound to the abdomen.

Deputy Payne said he and his partner were asked to stay at the crime scene location to help conduct the investigation and to secure the crime scene. During the course of the next hour, Deputy Payne and Deputy Thrall combed the back yard looking for the knife and checked the area for witnesses.

During this follow-up investigation, Deputy Payne saw Sergeant [redacted] drive off in her radio car and then saw other deputies running towards their radio cars. At the time, Deputy Payne said he was unsure what was going on because his radio was turned down. Deputy Payne said he ran to his radio car with Deputy Thrall. After getting into his car, Deputy Payne learned that Sergeant [redacted] had seen a car at the north end of Kauffman Avenue and Blackley Street. He said Sergeant [redacted] thought the car was suspicious and left the location to look for the vehicle.

Deputy Payne said he and Deputy Thrall were the last unit to leave the crime scene location. Deputy Payne said he got about two blocks away and decided to go back to the crime scene because no one stayed at the residence to secure the crime scene. While driving back to Kauffman Avenue, Deputy Payne saw a white pick up truck speed eastbound on Blackley Street and then drive south on Kauffman Avenue.

Deputy Payne said he followed the truck southbound on Kauffman Avenue and saw the truck park just north of the original crime scene. When the truck stopped, Deputy Payne parked his radio car behind the truck. Deputy Payne said he got out of his radio car and saw the suspect exit the truck. Deputy Payne said when he saw the driver, he immediately thought this was the assault suspect from the earlier call.

After the suspect exited the truck, Deputy Payne saw the suspect was holding a very large knife in his right hand. Deputy Payne said he estimated the knife blade to be at least nine inches in length.



Deputy Payne said the suspect began to walk towards his radio car holding the knife. At this point, Deputy Payne said he made numerous commands for the suspect to "Stop," Stop right there" and "Drop the knife." Deputy Payne said at the same time he heard Deputy Thrall yelling, "Drop the knife. Drop the knife."

Deputy Payne said the suspect continued to walk toward him. He said the suspect then lifted the knife above his head.

> **Note:** When Deputy Payne was talking about the suspect lifting the knife above his head, Investigators saw Deputy Payne raise his right hand above his head in a very threatening manner.

Deputy Payne said commands were still being yelled at the suspect, but the suspect was "totally noncompliant." As the suspect got closer, Deputy Payne said he took several steps backwards along the side of his radio car. Deputy Payne then stated, "I was so afraid he was going to come after me. By this time he had the knife up, above maybe his shoulder area. Maybe a little bit above, with the point facing up and I fired two rounds."

Deputy Payne said at the same time he fired the two rounds, Deputy Thrall fired her gun. Deputy Payne said after the shooting, the suspect went to the ground. After the shooting, Deputy Payne said he advised the dispatcher they had been involved in a shooting and paramedics were needed.

Deputy Payne said assisting units arrived at their location within a minute or two. When assisting units arrived, Deputy Payne said he directed someone to clear the suspect's vehicle. After the truck was clear, Deputy Payne remembers Sergeant [redacted] asking if he had a Stunbag Shotgun. Deputy Payne said he told Sergeant [redacted] the Stunbag Shotgun was in the trunk of his car. Deputy Payne said he believed someone retrieved the Stunbag Shotgun from his trunk, but he did not know who.

During this time, Deputy Payne said he continued to tell the suspect to push the knife away from himself. Although his attention was on the suspect, Deputy Payne said he knew that Sergeant [redacted] along with other deputies were formulating a plan.

Deputy Payne said he then heard three or four shots fired from the Stunbag Shotgun. He said at first he was unsure why they were shooting the Stunbag Shotgun at the suspect. He said by the third or fourth round it became apparent that they were trying to hit the knife away from the suspect. Deputy Payne said one of the rounds hit the knife and pushed it away from the suspect. He said the suspect was then handcuffed. After the suspect was handcuffed, Deputy Payne said he was transported to the station.



In closing, Deputy Payne stated he fired his handgun because he was in fear for his life. He said he fired his weapon when the suspect got to within fifteen feet and only after he had warned the suspect several times to drop the knife.

Before the interview ended, Deputy Payne removed his Beretta 92F handgun. After providing Investigators with the serial number to the handgun, Deputy Payne told Investigators he usually carried the firearm with fifteen rounds in the magazine and one round in the chamber.

Deputy Payne then removed thirteen 9mm rounds from the magazine and one 9mm round from the chamber of the gun. He said it was his belief he fired two rounds. Investigators took possession of Deputy Payne's handgun, magazine and the twelve 9mm rounds **(Evidence Item #31).**

Evidence Items transported to the Los Angeles County Crime Lab

On December 14, 2000, at 11:15 am, Investigators Bumcrot and Carver transported the Beretta 92F firearms belonging to Deputy Payne and Thrall to the Los Angeles County Crime Lab. **(Evidence Items #30 and #31).**

The Beretta handguns were given to Firearms Examiner Jim Carroll, who issued **Lab Receipt #JO94217.** Examiner Carroll test fired both weapons. After his examination was complete, Examiner Carroll gave the Beretta handguns back to Investigators.

For a complete account of Examiner Carroll's observations and actions, refer to his supplemental report, which will be obtained and remain a permanent part of this file.

After the Beretta firearms were examined, Investigators drove the firearms back to Temple Sheriff Station and left them in the Watch Commander's safe until they could be given back to Deputy Payne and Deputy Thrall.

This case will remain active with further reports to follow.

SUBMITTED BY: D. CARVER #[redacted] AND M. BUMCROT #[redacted]
APPROVED BY: LT. MARTIN #[redacted] 1/05/01
HOMICIDE BUREAU / DETECTIVE DIVISION



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

DATE: DECEMBER 21, 2000 **FILE NO.:** 000-18019-0524-052

C: ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON (KNIFE) ON A POLICE OFFICER - 245 (C) PC.

ACTION: ACTIVE, WITNESSES INTERVIEWED.

V: PAYNE, ROBERT (DEPUTY SHERIFF)

D: 12/14/00, THURSDAY, 0247 HOURS

L: [redacted] KAUFFMAN AVENUE TEMPLE CITY, CALIFORNIA

S: RETZEPIS, VAIOS, MW/22, DOB: 02/17/78

****

WITNESSES:

W#1: [redacted], FW/64, DOB: [redacted]

W#2: [redacted]

On 12/14/00 at approximately 1035 hours, Detective Frank Salerno and Sergeant Gib Anderson interviewed Witness [redacted] at her residence. Present during the interview was Sergeant Ben Seno from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Internal Affairs Bureau, Deputy District Attorney, John Gilligan from the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office Special Investigation Division, Senior District Attorney Investigator, [redacted] from the Special Investigation Division and District Attorney Investigator, [redacted]

[redacted], from the Special Investigation Division. The interview was tape recorded, and the following is a synopsis of the interview.

Witness [redacted] said she went to bed on 12/13/00, at approximately 2300-2315 hours. When she went to bed, she heard what she thought was the [redacted] neighbor's ([redacted]) voice. She thought he said a word, possibly, "Hello," to an unknown person. At approximately 0245 hours on 12/14/00, Witness [redacted] heard her doorbell ring. Within seconds of the doorbell ringing, she heard a knock at her front door. Witness [redacted] went to her front door and was greeted by a female Sheriff's deputy. The deputy asked Witness [redacted] if she heard any noises or saw anything next door to her. Witness [redacted] told the deputy she thought she heard the [redacted] neighbor's voice.

Witness [redacted] went back to bed. At approximately 0300 hours, she heard about ten (10) gunshots outside of her residence. She got out of bed and ran into her kitchen. She picked up her telephone and dialed 9-1-1. She then went to the small window in her entry way and looked outside the window. This window faced [redacted] toward the street. She saw there were Sheriff deputies outside on the street, directly in front of her residence. She told the 9-1-1 operator that she wanted to report a shooting, but the deputies were already there. The 9-1-1 operator told Witness [redacted] they were aware of the shooting.

As Witness [redacted] looked out of her window, she saw the deputies around their cars, looking south. She couldn't remember where each deputy was positioned, but she thought she saw about ten (10) deputies. She recognized the deputies by them flashing their flashlights and by the several Sheriffs' cars that were stopped on the street.

Witness [redacted] saw a male lying on the street with his back to her. She could see the person from the middle of his back down to his feet. Witness [redacted] then moved over to a larger window in her living room, and she continued to look outside. This window also faced [redacted] toward the street. She saw the deputies standing behind the doors of their police cars, shielding themselves. She heard both male and female deputies telling the male to, "Give up the knife," Drop the knife," or "Let go of the knife." She couldn't remember the exact words the deputies were saying, but the commands were the same, and the deputies repeated the commands several times. Witness [redacted] estimated the deputies repeated these commands about twenty-five (25) times.

Witness [redacted] could only see the bottom half of the male, and he was not moving. As the commands were being made, one of the deputies approached a pick-up truck on the passenger side with his gun drawn. He walked up to the truck and yelled, "All clear." Witness Haaga heard one of the deputies say to the male, "Drop it, or we'll have to shoot."

After the commands were made, the deputies fired about four (4) shots in an unknown direction. She said these shots sounded similar to the ten (10) shots she heard earlier. She was not able to determine what deputies were shooting. After the four (4) shots, the deputies

stood back for approximately 2-3 minutes. Witness [redacted] saw 4-5 deputies then walk toward the male who was lying on his side in the street. Witness [redacted] could not see the males' hands or head area. Witness [redacted] said the area was well lit by the spotlights on the patrol cars.

When the deputies approached the male, they walked around him, knelt down, and turned the male over onto his back. The paramedics arrived shortly thereafter, and they treated the male for his injuries.

Witness [redacted] emphasized that she thought the deputies were very patient in their dealings with the male who was lying on the street. She said the deputies continuously made commands for the male to drop the knife, prior to hearing the four (4) shots.

On 12/14/00 at approximately 1100 hours, Detective Salerno and Sergeant Anderson interviewed Witness [redacted] at his residence. Present during the interview was Sergeant Ben Seno, Deputy District Attorney John Gilligan, Senior District Attorney Investigator [redacted] and District Attorney Investigator [redacted]. The interview was tape recorded, and the following is a synopsis of the interview.

Witness [redacted] said at approximately 0230 hours on 12/14/00, he was in bed with his [redacted] ([redacted]), when he heard his doorbell ring several times. He then heard someone on his neighbor's (Witness [redacted]) driveway, which was [redacted] of his bedroom. Witness [redacted] got out of bed, and he went to his front door. He was greeted by a female Sheriff's deputy. The deputy asked Witness [redacted] if he heard any disturbance around 2300-2330 hours on 12/13/00. Witness [redacted] said he was asleep and had not heard anything.

Witness [redacted] went back to bed. At approximately 0300 hours on 12/14/00, he heard someone in his neighbor's (Witness [redacted]) driveway, outside his bedroom window. Witness [redacted] got up and looked [redacted] out of his bedroom window. He could see a patrol car in the street at the end of Witness [redacted] driveway. The front passengers' door of the patrol car was opened and a female deputy was standing behind the open door.

Witness [redacted] saw a male white, wearing a white shirt, standing in the middle of the street south of the patrol car. Witness [redacted] could only see the male from the waist up because the hood of the patrol car blocked his view of the males' lower body. The male was facing north toward where Witness [redacted] saw the female deputy. Witness [redacted] could see the female deputy had her weapon pointed at the male. The males' hands were down at his side. This drew the attention of Witness [redacted] that the male did not have his hands up while the deputy's weapon was pointed at him. Witness [redacted] did not hear any voices or conversation because his windows were closed.

Witness [redacted] then heard 3-5 gunshots and saw the male fall down on the street. Witness [redacted] could not see who was shooting. Witness [redacted] told his [redacted] that the deputies shot



the male, and they both went to the front bedroom window of their residence. The window faced [redacted] toward the street.

When Witness [redacted] got to the front window, he saw additional patrol cars and deputies. He saw a male deputy standing at the driver side of the patrol car near the front drivers' door. He saw a female deputy standing on the east side of the street holding a "bean bag" shotgun. The female deputy fired two (2) rounds from the shotgun at the male lying in the street. There was also a male deputy in the area of the female deputy who fired two (2) rounds from a "bean bag" shotgun at the male. Witness [redacted] thinks that the deputies fired the same shotgun at the male, but he did not see the female deputy give the shotgun to the male deputy.

Witness [redacted] went outside of his residence, and saw that the male was lying on the ground and his head was moving. One of the deputies asked Witness [redacted] to go back inside of his house. Witness [redacted] complied. The paramedics arrived and administered first aid to the male.

Witness [redacted] said the deputies, "acted in a very professional manner," and they were, " very courteous," to him when they had contact with him. This statement was made by Witness [redacted] unsolicited.

BY DETECTIVE FRANK SALERNO #[redacted]
SERGEANT GIB ANDERSON #[redacted]
APPROVAL BY: LIEUTENANT TOM MARTIN #[redacted] 1/0.1

ASSIGNED: HOMICIDE BUREAU-DETECTIVE DIVISION

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

DATE: JANUARY 15, 2001

FILE NO.: 000-18019-0524-052

C: ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON ON A PEACE OFFICER (KNIFE), 245(c) P.C., ATTEMPT MURDER (KNIFE), 664/187 P.C., DEPUTY INVOLVED SHOOTING (SUSPECT DECEASED)

ACTION: ACTIVE / INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED / SUSPECT'S [redacted] INTERVIEWED / CORONER'S CASE# 2000-08750

V#1: [redacted] MH/[redacted]

V#2: PAYNE, ROBERT EMP#[redacted]

V#3: THRALL, JENNIFER EMP#[redacted]

D: DECEMBER 14, 2000 / 0247HRS

L: [redacted] AND [redacted] KAUFFMAN AVENUE, TEMPLE CITY

S: RETZEPIS, VAIOS MW/2-17-78 (DECEASED)

Interview of Mrs. [redacted] ([redacted] of Suspect Retzepis)

On December 14, 2000, Mrs. [redacted] called Temple Sheriff Station and spoke to Investigator Carver about her [redacted], Suspect Vaios Retzepis. At the time of this call, Mrs. [redacted] had not been notified of her [redacted] death.

Mrs. [redacted] told Investigator Carver her [redacted] had not returned to the residence on December 13, 2000. She said when her [redacted] did not come home she became worried and called Temple Station to see if the Sheriff's Department had any information regarding her [redacted].

Before having to tell Mrs. [redacted] her [redacted] was dead, Investigator Carver asked Mrs. [redacted] if her [redacted] had any type of substance abuse or mental health problems. Mrs. [redacted] said she did not think her [redacted] used drugs or abused alcohol. Mrs. [redacted] said her [redacted] had been diagnosed with some type of mental illness, but she did not know the name of the problem or if he was on any type of medication.

Mrs. [redacted] said her [redacted] had been diagnosed with a mental illness about nineteen months ago. After he began to display signs of mental illness, Mrs. [redacted] said her [redacted] moved to Rhode Island and stayed with his [redacted]. She said he stayed in Rhode Island for approximately one year and then moved back to California. She said when her [redacted] moved back to California, he moved back into the house with her and her [redacted]

Mrs. [redacted] said her [redacted] was seen by a medical doctor in Rhode Island, who wanted to place him on medication. Mrs. [redacted] said her [redacted] did not like taking medication and she was unsure if he ever began the medication that was prescribed. Mrs. [redacted] said she did not know the name of the doctor that saw her [redacted] but she said her [redacted] might have the information.

Without being told that her [redacted] had stabbed Victim [redacted], Mrs. [redacted] said, "Sometimes Vaios just wants to hurt people for no reason. I do not know why." Investigator Carver asked Mrs. [redacted] if her [redacted] ever stated he heard voices telling him to hurt people. Mrs. [redacted] said her [redacted] never told her he heard voices, but he stated several times that he "just felt like hurting people."

After telling Investigator Carver about her [redacted] mental illness, Mrs. [redacted] asked if her [redacted] had injured someone. Investigator Carver told Mrs. [redacted] her [redacted] had stabbed Victim [redacted]. Mrs. [redacted] immediately began to cry and then asked if Victim [redacted] was going to be all right. Investigator Carver told Mrs. [redacted] that Victim [redacted] had undergone successful surgery and doctors had said he was going to recover.

After asking about Victim [redacted] condition, Mrs. [redacted] asked if her [redacted] had been arrested. Investigator Carver told Mrs. [redacted] that he would prefer to discuss the status of her [redacted] in person. Mrs. [redacted] said she needed to know about her [redacted] and wanted Investigator Carver to tell her over the phone.

Investigator Carver told Mrs. [redacted] that her [redacted] had been shot and killed by Sheriff's Deputies, when her [redacted] returned to Victim [redacted] residence. After hearing the news of her [redacted] death, Mrs. [redacted] started to cry and scream. After a few minutes, Investigator Carver was able to briefly explain the circumstances surrounding her [redacted] death.



Before the conversation ended, Mrs. [redacted] said she wanted to wish Victim [redacted] a speedy recovery and she was pleased the deputies were not injured.

On January 12, 2001, Mrs. [redacted] called Investigator Carver at Homicide Bureau to discuss her [redacted] case. Mrs. [redacted] said she did not want her [redacted] truck that had been stored at the tow yard on December 14, 2000. She said the truck was owned by her [redacted] and she did not want the truck back.

During the conversation, Investigator Carver asked Mrs. [redacted] if she had any further information regarding her [redacted] mental illness. Mrs. [redacted] said her [redacted] knew more about her [redacted] condition than she did. Investigator Carver asked Mrs. [redacted] for her [redacted] phone number and address. Mrs. [redacted] said she would prefer to have her [redacted] call Investigator Carver instead of revealing her [redacted] information.

As of January 15, 2001, Investigators have not heard from Mrs. [redacted] or her [redacted].

The facts of this case will be submitted to the Special Investigation Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

SUBMITTED BY: D. CARVER # [redacted] AND M. BUMCROT # [redacted]
APPROVED BY: LT. MARTIN # [redacted] 1/16/01
HOMICIDE BUREAU / DETECTIVE DIVISION